100 mg. under the brand name 'Colsprin'. Few other brands of low dose Aspirin available in the market are Dynasprin (M/s USV), Loprin (M/s Unichem). Micropyrin (M/s Nicholas), Asprin (M/s Cipla), Aspicot (M/s Concept) etc.

Incidence of Heart Diseases in the country

1400. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Heart disease takes a beating in West, on the rise here", which appeared in the Economic Times, dated 1st October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to reduce the incidence of heart diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the causes of this disease are attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control this disease.

Import of medicines and medical equipments

1401. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred annually for importing medicines and medical equipments during the last three years;

(b) the reason for huge quantity of import of medicines and medical equipments; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of these to reduce import?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Value of India's total import of medicine and Pharmaceutical Products during the last three years as per Foreign Trade Statistics of India — March 1998, 1999,

2000 published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta are as under:—

(*Rs. in Lakhs*)

1997-98	144711.68
1998-99	161519.91
1999-00	150230.30

The information showing import of medical equipments during last three years as received from Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Department of Commerce) is enclosed as statement (*See* below)

(b) No specific reason can be cited. There may be many reasons like need for newer drugs or drugs in small quantities not manufactured locally. Raw materials are imported for formulations. Import of equipments may be because sophisticated equipments are required but not manufactured in the country. Besides, there is no restriction on imports.

(c) Industrial licensing for all bulk drugs and formulations cleared by Drug Controller General of India has been abolished except in very few cases. Higher return for basic stage production and exemption from price control for production based on indigenous R&D have been provided in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995.

Statement

Import of Medical Equipments during the last three years.

IMPORT

Value in Rs. Lakh

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Instruments & Appliances used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences, including scintigraphic apparatus, other electro medical apparatus & sight testing instruments (Exim code- 9018)	92664.7	97511.64	129649.77
Mechano-therapy appliances, Massage apparatus, psychological	4386.65	7839.33	8075.19

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
aptitude—testing apparatus, ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (Exim code-9019)			
Orthoapetic appliances, including crutches, surgical belts and trusses, splints and fracture appliances, artificial parts of the body, hearing aids and other appliances which are worn or carried or implanted in the body to compensate for a defect or disability (Exim code-9021)	7357.01	8411.05	9099.76
Apparatus based on the use of X-rays or of alpha, beta or gamma radiations, whether or not for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary uses, incl. Radiography or radiotheraphy apparatus, X-ray tubes and other X-ray generators and the like.	19993.64	26348.90	24964.38

Proposal to link AIIMS with other centres of excellence

1402. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to link the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and other Centres of Excellence having super speciality access and specialized expertise to State capitals and other local hospitals which have limited availability of such facilities, to provide consultation, medical education and research;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and its present status; and

(c) whether and to what extent the Indian hospitals have linkages with foreign hospitals and institutions for tele-medicine services to seek/private expert medical advice?